

Supernatural Beings

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Bryan Lawrence (he/him)

God/Divine Glory

- God is the “creator and ruler of the universe who has made a covenant with the people of Israel” (Lesses, 683).
- In the Tanakh, God is referred to as male and female imagery is almost never used to describe God.
- God is constantly appearing to individuals in special ways.
- Examples in text: Abraham in Gen 15, People of Israel at Mt. Sinai (Ex 19-20)



Wisdom

- The figure of Wisdom is the only female figure that comes close to divine status.
- She has a share in God's creative powers and has played a huge role in the guidance of human beings since the beginning.
- Example:
 - Proverbs 8.22-23 - "The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth."
 - Proverbs 8.30 - "then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always."

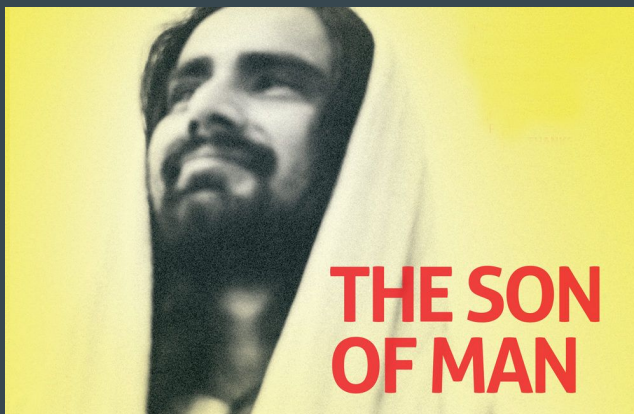
Angels

- Angels serve many different roles such as bringing messages from God to humans, saving the righteous from evil, interpret visions from God, and possess divine authority.
- Angels are responsible for passing on divine relations to human beings.
 - Example: In Rev 1.1, John of Patmos received 'revelation of Jesus Christ' which was sent to him by an angel. (Lesses, 684)
- Angels have another important role announcing the birth/conception of important figures.
 - Examples: Three 'men' and Sarah, Angel of the Lord and Hagar.



Son of Man

- In the New Testament, ‘Son of Man’ is Jesus’ preferred self designation.
 - He uses it ‘cryptically’ to refer to himself as the heavenly judge/advocate.
 - Example: ‘Jesus states “but so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”’ (Lesses, 686)
- The ‘Son of Man’ is a heavenly figure that existed before creation.
 - “From the beginning the Son of Man was hidden, and the Most High kept him in the presence of his power and revealed him only to the chosen” (1 En. 62.8).



Satan, the forces of evil, and Hades

- The figure of Satan was mostly developed in the Tanakh where he is a member of the divine council, into the enemy of God and all of humanity.
- Later Second Temple period texts present different evil figures (fallen angels, Mastema, Satan, etc) who go further in opposing divine will.
- Jesus fights Satan's power by casting out demons who afflict people with insanity and sadness.
- In the New Testament, those who become Satan's prey are condemned to Hades (underworld).
 - Example: Gen 37:35 - When Jacob hears of Joseph's death, he says "I shall go down to Hades to my son, mourning".



Works Cited

- Lesses, Rebecca. “Supernatural Beings.” Pages 682-688 in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, Amy-Jill Levine and Mark Zvi Brettler, editors. Second Edition. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018.